

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Pharmacists Caring for Patients with Substance Use Disorders (KASPER)



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Background

- Substance use disorder (SUD) is a cluster of cognitive, behavioural and physiological symptoms indicating an individual continues to use a substance despite significant substance-related problems (1)
- ~21.6% of Canadians will meet the criteria for SUD during their lifetime (annual SUD-associated costs ~\$38 billion CAD/year) (2)
- Pharmacists are optimally positioned to provide support to patients with SUD, but little is known about their knowledge, attitudes and practices in this area

Methods

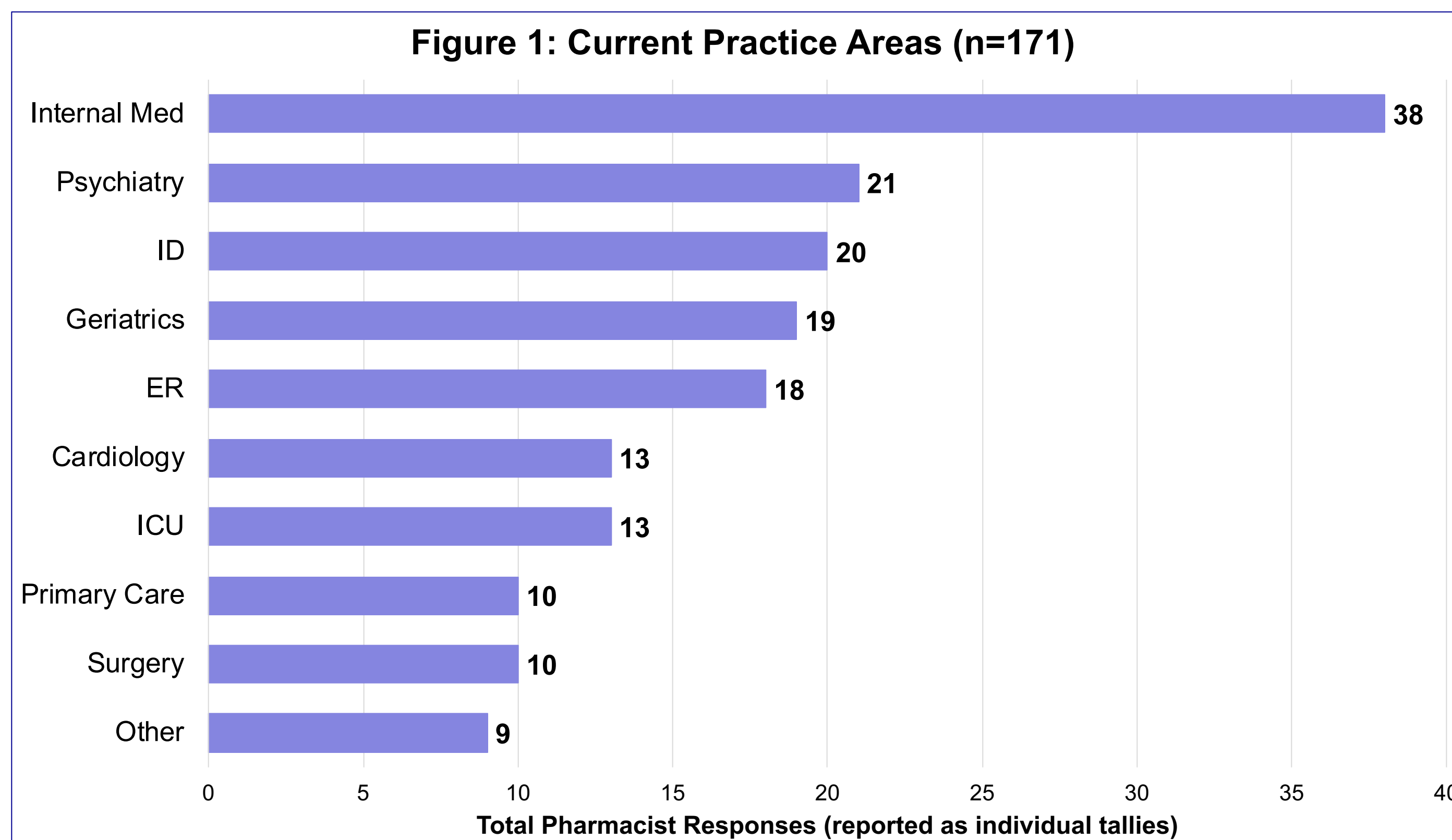
- Design:** Electronic survey using UBC Survey Tool, *Qualtrics*
 - 27 questions comprised of 3 subsections: Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices
 - Survey developed by investigators, feedback provided by four other Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services (LMPS) pharmacists
- Study Population:** All LMPS pharmacists
- Study Dates:** January 10 to February 14, 2020
- Statistical Analysis:** Descriptive

Results – Demographics

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics

Response Rate: 127 of 770 (~16.5%)

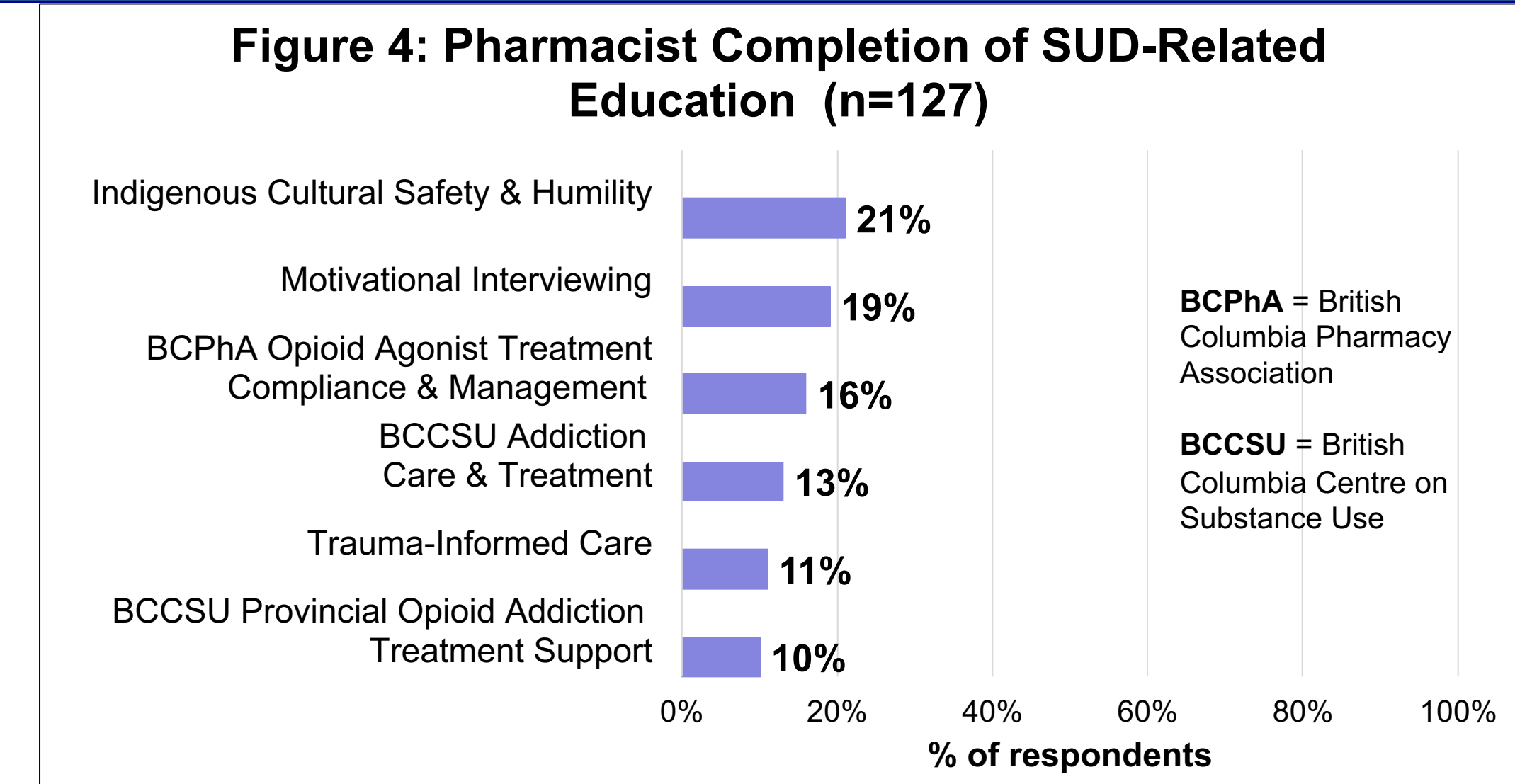
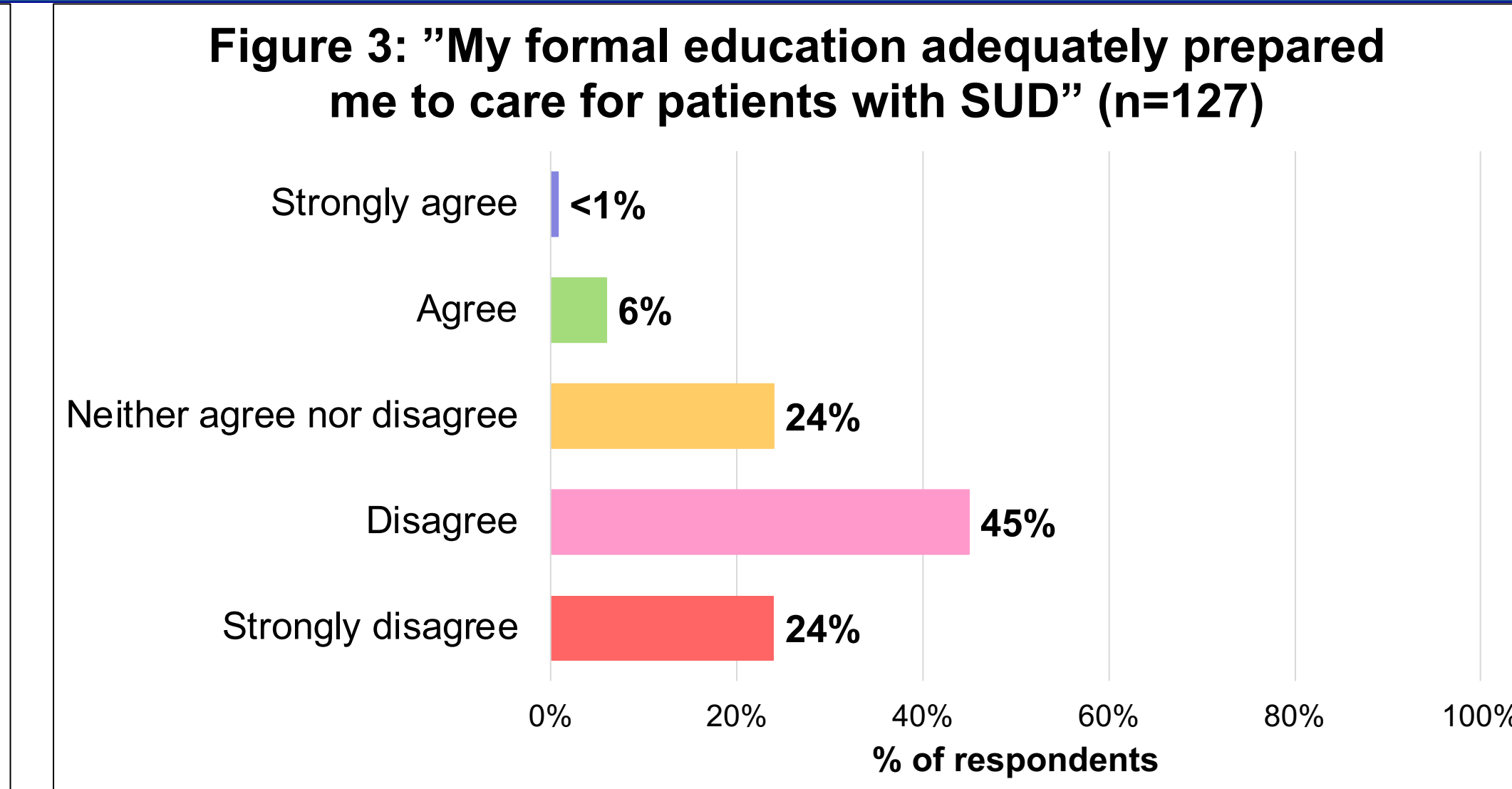
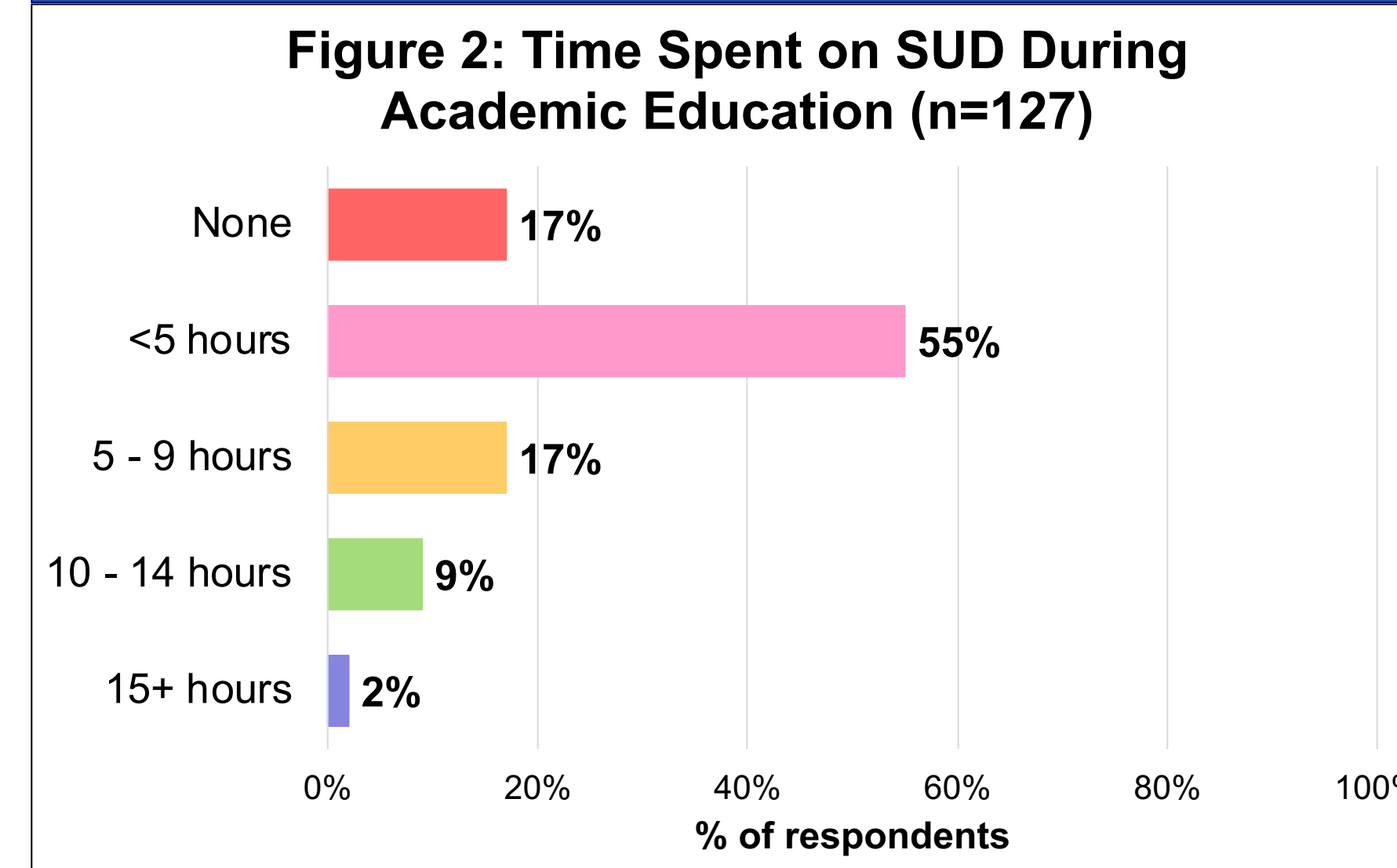
Years in Clinical Practice	N (%)	Primary Practice Area	N (%)
0 - 4 years	40 (31%)	Ambulatory	29 (23%)
5 - 9 years	23 (18%)	Inpatient	86 (68%)
10 - 19 years	35 (28%)	Both	12 (9%)
20+ years	29 (23%)		



References

- American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: Author.
- Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction and University of Victoria Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (2018). Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms 2007-2014. Retrieved from: <https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2019-04/CSUCH-Canadian-Substance-Use-Costs-Harms-Report-2018-en.pdf>

Results – Knowledge (reported as % of total respondents)



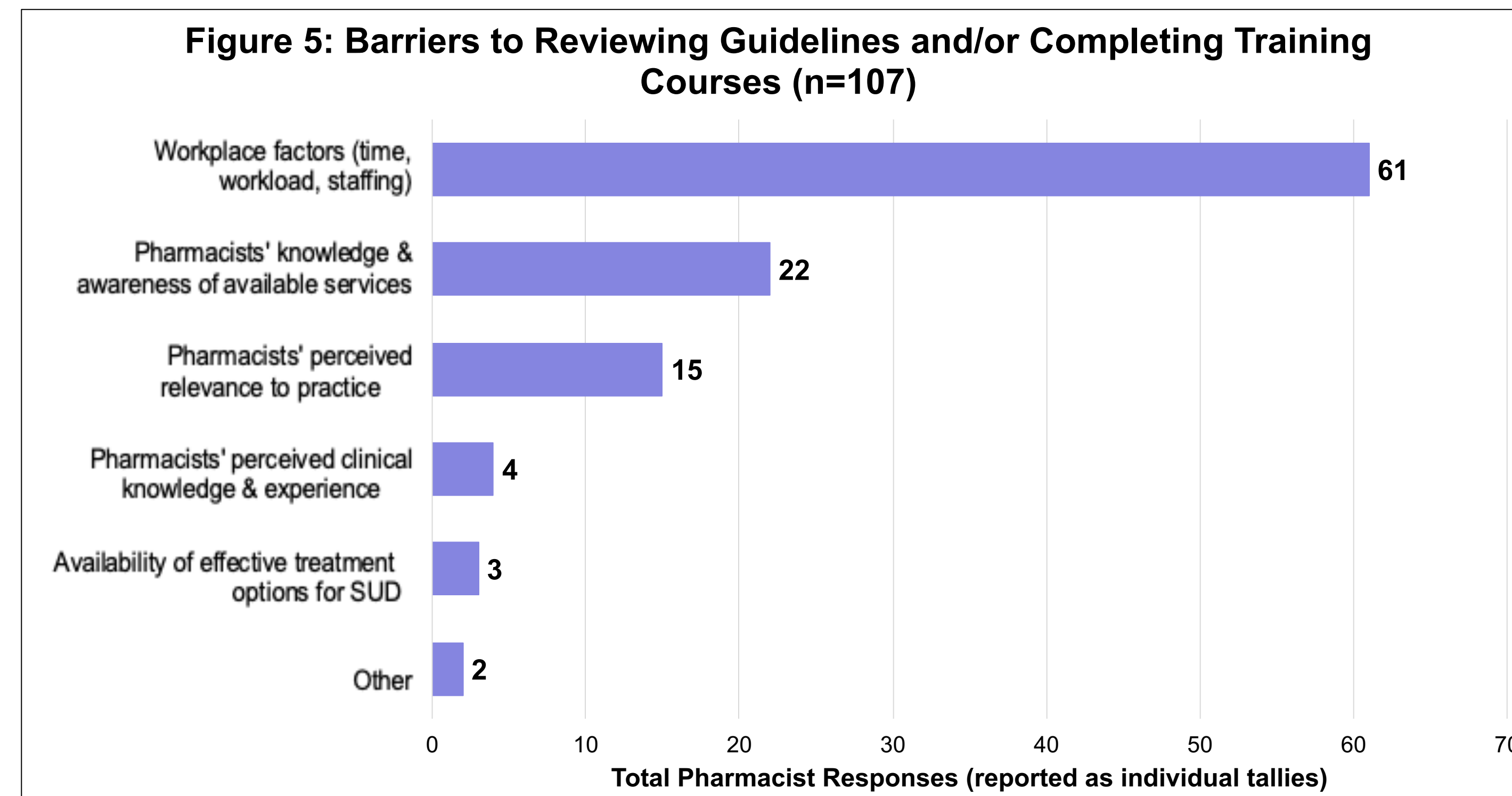
Results – Attitudes (reported as % of total respondents)

Table 2: Interest in Education (n=127)

Response	N (%)
Yes	92 (72%)
No	14 (11%)
Not applicable	19 (15%)

Table 3: Interest in SUD Courses (n=127)

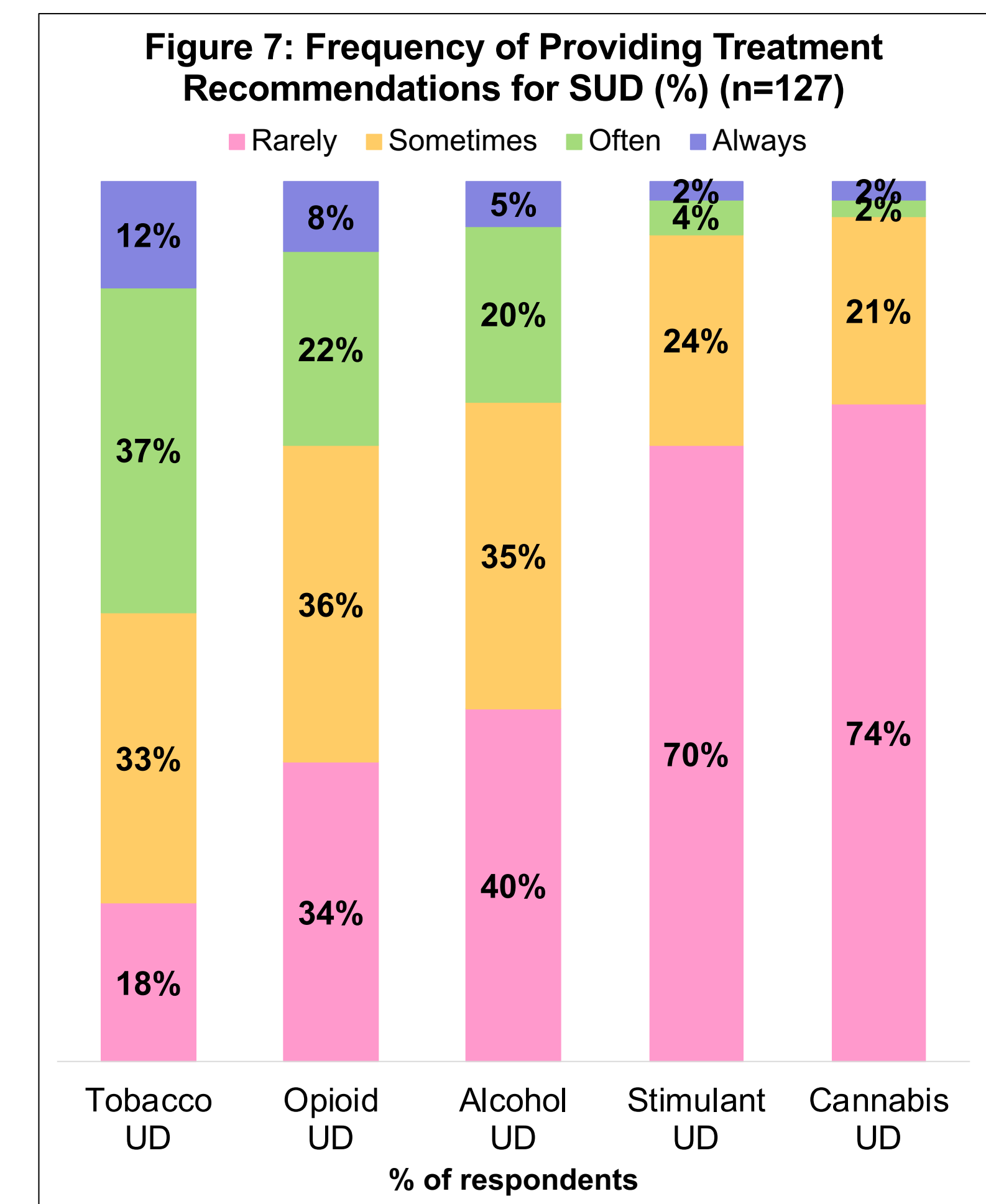
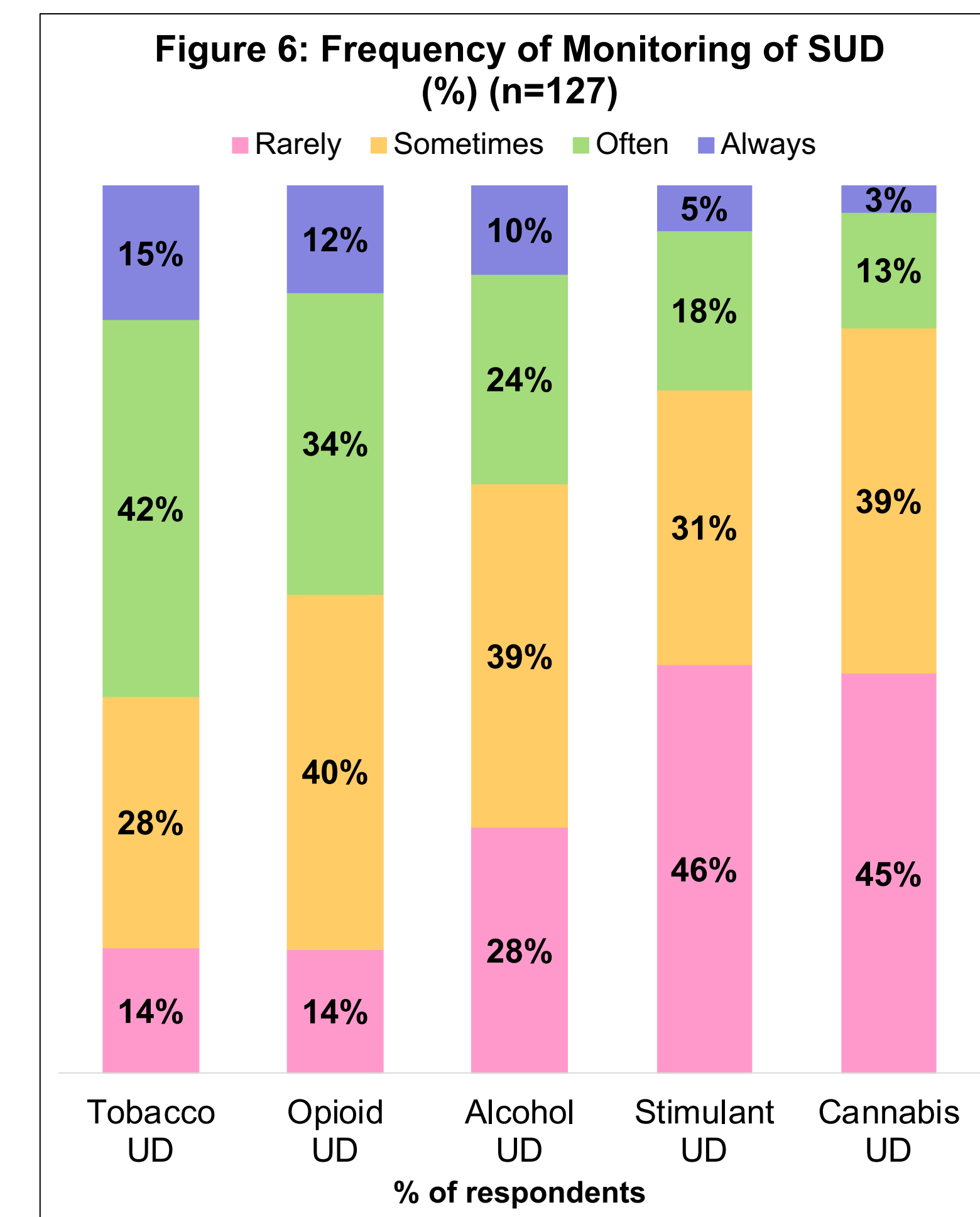
Response	N (%)
Strongly agree	38 (30%)
Agree	66 (52%)
Neither agree nor disagree	7 (6%)
Disagree	4 (3%)
Strongly disagree	11 (9%)



Results – Practices (reported as % of total respondents)

Table 3: Average Number of Patients With SUD Seen Per Week (n=127)

Number of Patients	N (%)
No patients	8 (6%)
1-9 patients	78 (61%)
10-19 patients	20 (16%)
20+ patients	21 (17%)



Conclusions

- Majority of pharmacists report feeling unprepared to care for patients with SUD
- Pharmacists express interest in programs designed to help improve their care of patients with SUD
- Most frequently cited barriers to SUD education were workplace factors (e.g. time, workload, staffing)
- Minority of pharmacists report regularly monitoring and providing treatment recommendations for patients with SUD in current practice

Limitations

- Cross-sectional analysis; unknown how knowledge, attitudes and practices of pharmacists have changed over time
- Limited generalizability; only included LMPS sites and no data from pharmacists practicing in pediatrics
- Non-response bias

